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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/539,542	03/17/2006	Adolfo Arnal Valero	2002P01192WOUS	7959
46726	7590	09/08/2006	EXAMINER	
JOHN T. WINBURN 100 BOSCH BOULEVARD NEW BERN, NC 28562			LEUNG, PHILIP H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	
DATE MAILED: 09/08/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/539,542

Applicant(s)

VALERO ET AL.

Examiner

Philip H. Leung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6-16-2005
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because legal phraseology such as "said" at line 3 should not be used. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
3. The drawings filed on 1-24-2006 are objected to because the lines and reference numerals are rough and non-uniform. Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 29-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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In claim 30, the term "said functional element" at line has no antecedent basis in claim 26 from which claim 30 depends. Should it be dependent on one of claims 27-29 instead of "claim 26"? Furthermore, the phrase "such as an induction mechanism carrier, a cool-air fan or an electronic control unit" is vague and indefinite as it is uncertain if the limitations after "such as" are parts of the claimed structure. It is suggested to change "such as" to "comprising" instead. In regard to claims 33-38, the term "said induction mechanism carrier" does not have positive antecedent basis as "an induction mechanism carrier" in claim 30 is only one of hob components. Therefore, it is not a positive claimed structure. Similarly, in claim 29, the use of "preferably" in a phrase at line 4 is also vague and indefinite as it is not certain if the limitation in the phrase is a positive claimed structure. Clarification and correction are required.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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7. Claims 22-34 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Blumenthal (DE 196 04 436) (cited by the applicant), in view of Gaspard (US 5,665,263) or Simon (US 4,549,052) (cited by the applicant).

Blumenthal shows an induction hob, comprising: including at least one hotplate 41; at least one induction mechanism 13 arranged under said hotplate; a housing including a housing floor 11 and substantially vertically projecting lateral walls 12 which delimit a housing interior; said hotplate connected to said lateral walls; said induction mechanism arranged in said housing interior (see Figures 1-3). Therefore it shows every feature as claimed except for the explicit showing that “the housing floor including at least a partial region designed as a monobloc plastic profile part” as claimed although a portion of the floor 11 appears to be made of a plastic material. Anyway, Gaspard shows an induction heating hob including an induction mechanism 1 enclosed in a housing with a floor 5 including a portion formed of a single piece plastic 15 (see Figures 3-5 and col. 4, lines 16-41. Simon also shows an induction cooking hob with an induction mechanism inside a housing with sidewalls 13 and bottom wall 14 having a housing member 18 adjacent to the bottom wall 14 formed of a single piece thermoplastic material (see Figures 1 and 2 and col. 2, line 67 – col. 4, line 38). It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Blumenthal to use a single piece plastic material forming a portion of the bottom of the hob housing to simplify the manufacturing process and to lower cost, in view of the teaching of Gaspard or Simon. The exact arrangement of the housing enclosure and the connection of the single piece plastic part would have been a matter of engineering design expediencies depending on the overall structure of the induction cooking hob

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8. Claims 35-38 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip H. Leung whose telephone number is (571) 272-4782.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on (571)-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Philip H Leung
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

P.Leung/pl
8-31-2006